

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01409 01 OF 02 081155Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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ACDA-07 IO-13 /079 W

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2769

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1409

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: NEW NORTHERN CROSSING POINT

REF: USBERLIN 1344, USBERLIN A-110

1. SUMMARY: GDR PROPOSAL FOR NORTHERN CROSSING POINT AT ZERNDORFER WEG IN FROHNAU HAS DRAWN CRITICISM FROM CDU AND FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO FEAR SWARMS OF CAR AND CONCOMITANT NEW STREET CONSTRUCTION WILL MAR THEIR SEMI-PASTORAL VILLAGE. GOVERNING MAYOR HAS THUS FAR SHOWN POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO GDR PROPOSAL IN PUBLIC, BUT SENAT OFFICIALS ARE EXPRESSING GROWING DOUBTS ABOUT PROJECT IN PRIVATE AND IN NEWSPAPER STORIES ATTRIBUTED TO INFORMED SOURCES. END SUMMARY.

2. BERLIN PRESS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GDR HAS PROPOSED ZERNDORFER WEG AS SITE FOR NEW CROSSING POINT CALLED FOR UNDER DECEMBER 19 INNER-GERMAN ARRANGEMENTS HAS BEEN SURPRISE AT LOCATION AND SOME
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PAGE 02 USBERL 01409 01 OF 02 081155Z

DISPLEASURE AT GDR'S INSISTENCE THAT SENAT PAY ENTIRE

COST. PRESS REPORTS THAT CONSTRUCTION OF CROSSING POINT AND NEW ROAD ON GDR SIDE OF BORDER WILL COST DM 25 MILLION. IN FACT SENAT HAS INFORMED US THAT GDR BELIEVES COST WILL BE DM 28 MILLION.

3. BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CDU CAUCUS CALLED UPON SENAT TO REVIEW CAREFULLY WHETHER GDR OFFER WAS ACCEPTABLE AND " IF NECESSARY TO DO WITHOUT A NORTHERN CROSSING POINT RATHER THAN TAKE A LOCATION THAT IS SENSELESS FROM THE BEGINNING." CDU CAUCUS CRITICIZED SENAT FOR HAVING ALLOWED IMPRESSION TO GROW UP AFTER DECEMBER 19 AGREEMENT THAT LOCATION AND OTHER DETAILS OF NORTHERN CROSSING WOULD BE OPEN TO BILATERAL NEGOTIATION. IN WHAT MAY BE FIRST TRUMPET FROM ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS, FROHNAU FDP MEMBER OF HOUSE, KRUEGER, BROKE HIS PARTY TO CRITICIZE PROJECT. SPD CAUCUS CHAIRMAN EHRKE PROVIDED AT BEST A LUKEWARM DEFENSE BY CALLING ON CRITICS TO AVOID " PREMATURE JUDGMENTS" WHILE ADMITTING THAT THERE WERE SOME VALID GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT.

4. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ TOLD MEETING OF BUNDESTAG'S INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN REICHSTAG JUNE 30 THAT SENAT CONSIDERED IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO DECLINE GDR OFFER EVEN THOUGH ZERNDORFER WEG WAS FAR FROM IDEAL FROM WEST BERLIN POINT OF VIEW. SCHUETZ EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ZERNDORFER WEG CROSSING POINT WOULD NOT SATISFY SENAT'S DESIRE TO SEE SECOND CROSSING POINT IN NORTH OF CITY OPENED EVENTUALLY FOR TRANSIT TRAFFIC TO FRG VIA STILL TO BE BUILT HAMBURG AUTOBAHN.

5. AT MEETING WITH SENAT LIAISON OFFICERS JULY 6 ACTING HEAD OF CHECELLERY SCHULTZE INDICATED SENAT HAVING SOME SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT GDR PROPOSAL. ZERNDORFER WEG CROSSING POINT WOULD HAVE SAME BASIC DISADVANTAGE AS ORANIENBURGER CHAUSSEE, NAMELY TRAFFIC WOULD HAVE TO BE ROUTED AROUND SO CALLED "ENTENSCHNABEL," (DUCKBILL) A SMALL BUT ANNOYINGLY SITUATED CHUNK OF GDR TERRITORY WHICH JUTS OUT ACROSS AND ALONG SEGMENT OF ORANEINBURGER

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PAGE 03 USBERL 01409 01 OF 02 081155Z

CHAUSSEE AT AM SANDKRUG, BLOCKING OFF ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS OF ORANIENBURGER CHAUSSEE TO WEST BERLIN TRAFFIC. SENAT TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT UNLESS SOME ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MADE TO OVERCOME OR ELIMINATE THE IMPEDIMENT CAUSED TO TRAFFIC BY " DUCKBILL," USE OF PROPOSED ZERNDORFER WEG CROSSING POINT WILL REQUIRE LARGE SCALE STREET RECONSTRUCTION IN CENTER OF FROHNAU AND IN IMMEDIATE VICINTY(REPAIR) . LOCAL CITIZEN

PROTESTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUFFICIENTLY STRONG AS TO
CAUSE SENAT OFFICIALS TO QUESTION WHETHER ESTABLISHMENT
OF CROSSING POINT WHICH SENAT ESTIMATES WOULD
HANDLE ONLY SOME 700-800 CARS ON AVERAGE DAY, IS
WORTH LOCAL POLITICAL FALL-OUT IT WOULD GENERATE.

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01409 02 OF 02 081200Z

47

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1409

6. SENAT THEREFORE PLANS TO HAVE KUNZE MEET WITH MITDANK
AT END OF WEEK TO PROPOSE ANEW THAT GDR RECONSIDER
QUESTION OF EXCHANGE OF LAND INVOLVING " DUCKBILL".
KUNZE WILL ALSO INFORM GDR THAT IF DIRECT LAND
EXCHANGE NOT POSSIBLE SENAT PREPARED TO ACCEPT POSSIBLE
ALTERNATIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, IF GDR PREPARED TO CEDE
TO WEST BERLIN PORTION OF ORANIENBURGER CHAUSSEE PRESENTLY
IN GDR TERRITORY(FOR WHICH GDR WOULD BE COMPENSATED),
SENAT WOULD UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERPASS BENEATH
ORANIENBURGER CHAUSSEE TO PERMIT 15 OF MORE GDR FAMILIES
CURRENTLY LIVING WITHIN"DUCKBILL" TO HAVE UN-
OBSTRUCTED ACCESS BETWEEN NEWLY CREATED EXCLAVE AND
GDR. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WHICH SENAT WOULD BE PREPARED
TO ACCEPT (BUT WHICH IT DOUBTS GDR WOULD EVEN BEGIN
TO CONSIDER) WOULD BE CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL UNDERNEATH

FULL LENGTH OF GDR HELD PORTION OF ORANIENBURGER CHAUSSEE.
SECOND OF AFOREMENTIONED CHOICES WOULD BE LEAST EXPENSIVE
ACCORDING TO SENAT, AND APPEARS TO BE ITS PRINCIPAL
CHOICE.

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PAGE 02 USBERL 01409 02 OF 02 081200Z

7. ON JULY 7 KUNZE, SCHULTZE, REINCKENDORF MAYOR GRIGERS
(SPD) AND REPS OF THREE MISSIONS MADE BUS TOUR OF ONLY
PRESENTLY AVAILABLE ROUTE (THROUGH CENTER OF FROHNAU) TO
PROPOSED CROSSING POINT. ROUTE IS WINDING AND SLOW AND CAN
ONLY BE MADE marginally PRACTICAL BY SERIOUS INCONVENIENCE
TO HOUSEHOLDER OF AREA. MAYOR GRIGERS EMPHATICALLY
DECLARED THAT CROSSING POINT MUST BE ABANDONED UNLESS
USE OF ORANIENBURGER CHAUSSEE ACROSS AND TO THE NORTH OF
THE "DUCKBILL" IS MADE POSSIBLE. SCHULTZE AND KUNZE
ALSO LEANED TOWARD THIS VIEW, AND SAID THAT IF ACCESS TO
CROSSING POINT COULD NOT BE MADE MORE DIRECT, SENAT IN
THIS CASE WOULD HAVE TO REEXAMINE ITS PHILOSOPHY THAT
" ANY HOLE IN THE WALL IS GOOD" AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTED.

8. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL
PROBLEMS POSED BY LOCATION OF " DUCKBILL", SENAT PROFESSES
TOBE SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY FLAT TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT
GDR DEMAND THAT SENAT PAY ENTIRE COST OF PROJECT SINCE
OTHER ROAD BUILDING PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN CONNECTION
WIH DECEMBER 19 AGREEMENT INVOLVED SOME COST-SHARING.
ADAMANT GDR ATTITUDE ON THIS POINT HAS TENDED TO STRENGTHEN
THINKING AMONG SOMESENAT OFFICIALS THAT GDR PURPOSELY
SELECTED ZERNDORFER WEG FOR PROPOSED CROSSING POINT WITH
THE REALIZATION THAT IT SO UNDESIRABLE THAT SENAT WOULD
ULTIMATELY BE FORCED TO TURN IT DOWN. GDR WOULD THEN BE
IN POSITION, SO SENAT THINKING GOES, TO SAY THAT IT WAS
SENAT WHICH REFUSED TO ESTABLISH THE CROSSING POINT
GDR HAD NEVER WANTED TO ESTABLISH, BUT FELT COMPLEED
TO OFFER UNDER THE TERMS OF THE DECEMBER19, 1975,
AGREEMENT.
GEORGE

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